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MONTANA FOREST PRODUCTS BULLETIN

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GARY G. BROWN, State Forester

PAUL MOORE, Editor

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This bulletin is mailed quarterly to individuals engaged in the Forest Products Industry in Montana. In addition, it is mailed to county agents, lumber brokers, wholesalers, dealers of sawmill and logging equipment and educators, as well as departments of forestry in many states.

The purpose of the newsletter is to communicate information regarding the properties and uses of wood products, promote the efficiency in the utilization of wood from the stump to the end product, and to serve as an information source for members of the forest products industry.

All persons receiving this newsletter are asked to examine their mailing addresses and advise this office of any corrections needed for proper mailing.

FOREST PRODUCTS PRODUCTION REPORT 1989

The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research says Montana's lumber production was down slightly in 1989, but plywood production, employment and payrolls in Montana's forest products industry were up from 1988's strike-affected levels. This information was based on a recent survey in cooperation with the Montana Wood Products Association. The report is based on a survey of 32 plants that produced more than 90 percent of the State's forest products.

Montana's 1989 lumber production was about 1,552 million board feet--down from the 1,558 million board feet in 1988 and the record level of 1,640 million board feet in 1987, says Charles Keegan, Director of the Bureau's forest industry research. Sawmill operators indicate that difficulties with the National Forest Timber program, and extremely cold weather in 1989, lowered lumber production, Keegan says.

The State's plywood industry, on the other hand, had record production levels in 1989 of 725 million square feet, which exceeded the 1987 high of 715 million square feet.

PLEASE RETURN



One reason for the discrepancy between lumber and plywood production is that the lumber sector is much more dependent on timber from national forest lands than is the plywood sector, he says. Sawmills have historically received more than half of their timber from public lands, mostly from the national forests, and the rest from private lands, Keegan says. In contrast, the plywood industry receives about two-thirds of its timber from private lands, and only about one third from public lands.

Production employment in Montana's forest products industry during 1989 averaged about 4,559 workers, up from the 4,446 workers in 1988, but down from the 4,709 workers in 1987, Keegan says. Production workers' wages at Montana mills totaled \$125.6 million in 1989, up slightly from \$115.4 million in 1988, Keegan says. The figures refer only to production workers at sawmills, plywood plants, pulp and paper mills, particleboard and fiberboard plants and utility pole plants. These production workers account for about half of the workers in Montana's forest products industry.

COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR WOOD PRODUCTS

Just imagine making one phone call to reach the inventory of over 50 sawmills! Well now you can, with the Lumberman's Information Service (LIS). LIS is a computerized information retrieval system that matches buyers and sellers of wood products. When you become a member of this service, your IBM compatible computer can scan the wood products inventories of scores of companies throughout the United States.

Buyers access the NRC computer system through a PC and modem. Lumber suppliers list the inventory they wish to sell on a custom designed form and Fax it to (LIS). LIS staff then immediately enter your products into their database. Products listed on the computer are--Hardwood and Softwood Lumber and Timbers; Imported Lumber and Timbers; Logs, all species; Dimension Parts and Turning Squares; Plywood, all species; and other specialties and miscellaneous products. Buyers nationwide can access the computer system 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and see your inventory.

Also within the (LIS) network are two other programs designed to save time and money--"Wood Products Needed," and the (LIS) "Trucking network." "Wood Products Needed" helps buyers locate hard-to-find wood products. The "Trucking Service" incorporates a similar format for the networking of your trucking needs to trucking companies. These services were developed by lumber people for lumber people.

For more information contact: Lumberman's Information Services Inc., 807 Main Street, P.O. Box 1404, Natchez, MS 39121. Phone 1-800-456-3770.

MONTANA LOG PRICE REPORT

The State-wide Log Price Report on the following page catalogs recently delivered average log prices to sawmills by species using three geographical areas within Montana. Prices are provided by approximately 35 sawmills operating within the State. The report is compiled through the University of Montana, Bureau of Business and Economic research, in Missoula, Montana.



Bureau of Business and Economic Research
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812

MONTANA SAWLOG AND VENEER LOG PRICE REPORT
Based on a survey of mills - November-December, 1989

The following information is a summary breakdown of recent past average prices reported by primary wood processors for logs of the various species listed. These prices are not necessarily a reflection of current market prices. Fair market prices may vary a great deal based on log size, length, quality, contract size and terms, and a number of other factors. All information reported is recent average price per thousand board feet (MBF), Scribner Decimal rule, delivered to the mill site, unless otherwise noted.

Prices provided for this report by individual firms are treated as confidential disclosure of the firm's operations. Any requests for mill-specific data which have been provided for the log report will be denied.

SAWLOGS Scribner Dec C MBF	REGION I	*	REGION II	*	REGION III	*	REGION IV	*
	Avg. Low High		Avg. Low High		Avg. Low High		Avg. Low High	
Ponderosa pine	135	G					165 165 165	G/F
(Yellow)			321 240 350	G/F	318 300 335	G		
(Bull)			222 180 240	G/F	169 150 190	G/F		
Lodgepole pine	158	G	211 180 240	G	190 170 205	G	202 180 235	G
Douglas-fir	160	G	226 200 245	G	194 180 200	G	198 180 235	G/F
Western larch			226 200 245	G	198 190 200	G	200 200 200	F
Engelmann spruce	158	G	223 205 240	G	203 190 220	G	202 180 235	G
Subalpine fir			212 180 240	G/F	184 165 200	G	190 180 200	F
Grand fir			216 190 240	G/F	178 165 200	G		
Western red cedar			255 200 300	G				
Hemlock			204 190 215	G/F	200 200 200	G		
White pine			333 300 350	G/F				
Cottonwood								

VENEER LOGS Scribner Dec C MBF	STATEWIDE REPORT	
Species	Avg. Low High	Demand next 60 days*
Douglas-fir	230 200 260	G
Ponderosa pine (Bull)	190 190 190	F
Western larch	230 200 260	G
Engelmann spruce	230 200 260	G
Other species	200 200 200	G

*
Demand
Next 60
days
G = Good
F = Fair
P = Poor

MONTANA SPECIALTY PRODUCT
LOG PRICE REPORT

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1989

The following information is a summary breakdown of recent past average price and high price per piece reported by Montana's specialty product producers. These prices are not necessarily a reflection of current market prices. All prices are mill-delivered prices.

RAILS (lodgepole pine only)
(Dollars per piece, high/average)

120 day projected demand: good fair poor

D.I.B. small end (in.)	Length (feet)						
	<10	10	12	14	16	18	20
2.5-3.0	.52	.65	.78				.80
	.46	.57	.69				.80
3.0-3.5	.80	1.00	1.20	1.40	1.60		2.00
	.56	.71	.82	1.14	1.25		1.60
3.5-4.0	.80	1.00	1.20	1.40	1.60		2.00
	.57	.78	.95	1.31	1.34		2.00
4.0-4.5	.80	1.00	1.20	1.40	1.75		
	.63	.83	.98	1.40	1.49		
4.5-5.0	1.00	1.20	1.50	1.75	2.00		
	.77	.95	1.08	1.75	1.62		

* D.I.B. = diameter inside bark

POLES (lodgepole pine and western larch only)
(Dollars per piece, high/average)

120 day projected demand: good fair poor

D.I.B. top end (in.)	Length (feet)							
	10	20	25	30	35	40	>40	
3.0	1.00	2.00						
	.90	2.00						
5.0-5.5	1.75	7.00	11.00	20.00	30.00			
	1.50	7.00	11.00	20.00	30.00			
6.0-6.5	2.25	6.00	8.50	12.00	26.00	35.00	42.00	
	1.77	4.80	8.25	11.50	26.00	35.00	42.00	
7.0	3.00	7.00	10.00	13.00	27.00	40.00	45.00	
	2.50	5.13	8.32	9.84	27.00	40.00	45.00	
8.0	3.00	7.00	10.00	13.00	27.00	40.00	45.00	
	3.00	6.25	9.50	13.00	27.00	40.00	45.00	

* D.I.B. = diameter inside bark

POSTS (lodgepole pine only)
(Dollars per piece, high/average)

120 day projected demand: good fair poor

D.I.B. small end (in.)	Length (feet)		
	6.5	7.0	8.0
3.0	.40	.75	.52
	.31	.58	.51
3.5	.60	.52	
	.47	.51	
4.0	.60	.60	
	.50	.56	
4.5	.65	.75	.80
	.53	.62	.75
5.0	.60	.75	.80
	.53	.67	.76
5.5	.75	.90	1.25
	.56	.70	.93
6.0	.75	1.00	2.00
	.60	.80	1.19
8.0			2.00
			1.58

* D.I.B. = diameter inside bark

HOUSE LOGS: WL= western larch, LPP= lodgepole pine, ES= Engelmann spruce
(Dollars per piece, high/average)

120 day projected demand: good fair poor

Species	Top diam. (in.)	Length (feet)			
		< 16	16-25	33-35	> 35
WL	8	/	/	30.00 / 30.00	/
	9-12	/	/	30.00 / 30.00	30.00 / 30.00
	13+	/	/	40.00 / 40.00	40.00 / 40.00
LPP	8	16.00 / 11.47	21.00 / 21.00	34.00 / 28.40	40.00 / 35.77
	9-12	20.00 / 14.93	26.25 / 23.63	42.50 / 38.30	60.00 / 41.42
	13+	20.00 / 16.80	26.25 / 26.25	42.50 / 41.25	80.00 / 54.58
ES	8	15.20 / 15.20	/	/	/
	9-12	29.60 / 24.00	38.50 / 38.50	62.90 / 46.45	64.75 / 47.38
	13+	32.00 / 26.00	42.00 / 42.00	68.00 / 54.00	70.00 / 55.00

MONTANA FORESTRY AND LOG WAGE SURVEY

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, recently completed a forestry and logging wage survey in Montana. This one page report surveyed hourly personnel for the following occupations: choker setters, fallers/buckers, forestry truck drivers, forestry heavy equipment operators, loader operators, skidder operators, and tree planters. A copy of this report can be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Labor Statistics office, 911 Walnut St. 15th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64101. Phone: (816) 426-2481 or the Marketing Bulletin Editor.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS TIMBER SALES

EVARO TIMBER SALE:

The Evaro Timber Sale is located within Section 36, Township 15 North, Range 20 West, M.P.M. on the State's Missoula Unit. Approximately 787 MBF, consisting primarily of western larch and Douglas-fir is offered for sale. Sealed bids will be opened at the Department of State Lands, Forestry Division, 2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, Montana on May 21, 1990 at 2:00 p.m. Prospective bidders can obtain the sale prospectus, sample agreement, and bid forms from the Department of State Lands, Forestry Division, in Missoula; the Southwestern Land Office in Missoula; or the Missoula Unit Office in Missoula.

UPPER WOLF CREEK TIMBER SALE:

The Upper Wolf Creek Timber Sale is located within Section 4, 6, and 8, Township 15 North, Range 5 West, MPN, on the State's Helena Unit. Approximately 560 MBF, consisting of ponderosa pine, lodge pole pine, and Douglas-fir sawlogs, are offered for sale. Sealed bids will be opened at the Department of State Lands, Forestry Division, 2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, Montana on May 21, 1990 at 3:00 p.m. Prospective bidders can obtain the sale prospectus, sample agreement and bid forms from the Department of State Lands, Forestry Division, in Missoula.

MOOSE CREEK TIMBER SALE:

The Moose Creek Timber Sale is located within Section 36, Township 3 South, Range 17 West, M.P.M., on the State's Dillon Unit. Approximately 480 MBF, consisting primarily of lodgepole pine sawlogs, is offered for sale. Sealed bids will be opened at the Department of State Lands, Forestry Division, 2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, Montana on June 11, 1990 at 2:00 p.m. Prospective bidders can obtain the sale prospectus, sample agreement and bid forms from the Department of State Lands, Forestry Division, in Missoula; the Central Land Office, 8001 North Montana Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601, telephone 444-3633; or the Dillon Unit office, 730 North Montana, Dillon, Montana 59725, telephone 683-6305.

BAR CODE ALERT!
E.R. "Dusty" Moller

The trail-weary horse and rider alerted the small Montana mill town with the cry: "The Bar Codes are coming! The Bar Codes are coming!" ...and they are coming soon. The implications can be major for the Montana wood products producer.

Retail outlets that use automatic price scanning equipment require bar coded products. This means that someone in the marketing chain, the Montana mill, the wholesaler or the retail store, must develop a system for attaching a bar coded price label to each board or panel.

Who is going to do this? With 25% of all lumber and panel products entering the retail distribution chain, Montana mills will face varied labeling requirements. Some mills will not need to label their products. Others will label more than half of their production. The retailer will try to force the labeling procedure and costs back up the marketing chain. They succeeded at doing this in both the grocery and clothing industries.

Producers need to label each separate product with a unique 12-digit code. Some mills will be able to integrate the labeling equipment into existing planer/sorter lines. Others will have to upgrade these facilities, then add bar coding equipment. Smaller producers will have to apply the labels by hand.

The National Forest Products Association (NFPA) has published "Bar Coding Guidelines for the Wood Products Industry." This 40-page book costs \$55 and provides basic information (NFPA Telephone number (202) 463-2765). The Uniform Code Council is the organization which maintains the code system that retailers prefer.

Information on the UPC code is available from the UCC (UCC telephone number (513) 435-3870).

The bar code industry includes consultants, system integrators, printing and applying equipment and label suppliers. The industry is very competitive. As with any capital investment, shop around for a label system. Using a spreadsheet can help you compare. Contact various vendors. Describe what labels you need and how your system handles materials. Gather the quotes and compare the alternatives. Ask for a users' list and check those references.

Give special attention to firms and systems that have a good track record in Montana. The operating environment, namely Montana weather, calls for systems adapted to our conditions. Get prepared. Those bar codes are coming!

Dusty Moller is Technical Products Manager for Lucidyne Technologies, Corvallis, Oregon. Moller is a transplanted Montanan, formerly with Plum Creek Timber Company. Lucidyne Technologies, Inc. is a process control company that also manufactures a grade mark reader found in several Montana mills.

Publications Available

Wood-Frame House Construction--This updated handbook presents sound principals for wood-frame house construction and suggestions for choosing suitable materials to help you build a good house. The publication will take you from an initial concept to a completed structure with 260 pages of easy to understand diagrams and text. This publication is a must for the experienced builder as well as amateur. Copies of this publication are available for \$13.00 from the Superintendent of Documents, Dept. 36-GT, Washington, D.C. 20402-9325, or, with Visa or Mastercard phone (202) 783-3238. The stock number is 001-000-04547-4.

1990 Directory of Montana's Forest Products Industry--This is both a marketing tool and a buyer/seller reference book listing Montana's sawmills, plywood and particle board processors, wood fuel pellet producers, log home manufacturers, logging contractors, secondary manufacturers, post & pole processors and more. A copy of this publication can be obtained by contacting the Department of State Lands, 2705 Spurgin Rd., Missoula, MT 59801, phone (406) 542-4300.

The following publications are available from Information Services, Forest Products Laboratory, One Gifford Pinchot Drive, Madison, WI 53705-2398. These publications are produced to encourage and facilitate the application of Forest Service Research.

Field Trials of Copper Naphthenate-Treated Wood, De Groot, Link, Huffman. The industry has accepted copper naphthenate, a wood preservative for several decades, but we have not used it extensively to pressure-treat wood products that will come in contact with the ground. This paper addresses concerns about copper-tolerant fungi and evaluates the status of copper naphthenate-treated stakes in long term field plots at the Forest Products Laboratory.

Changes in Wood Harvesting and Utilization in the United States, Erickson, John R. The future offers opportunities to expand markets for wood and to improve the productivity and quality of U.S. forests. This paper discusses resource availability, improvements in production of wood and wood fiber products, some implications for the future based on current research and development efforts, and the improvements made in wood utilization standards.

Processing and Products Considerations Critical in Utilizing Second-Growth Ponderosa Pine, Maeglin, Robert R. This paper discusses the effects of juvenile wood, compression wood, and longitudinal growth stresses on the processing of second growth ponderosa pine, and presents ways to circumvent or eliminate warp in processing.

Controlling Sapstain: Trial of Strong Stain-Preventive Solutions on Selected Western Softwoods in Storage Prolonged for 12 Months, Miller, Donald J. Copies of this and other Forest Research Laboratory publications are available from Forestry Publications Office, Oregon State University, Forest Research Laboratory 225, Corvallis, OR 97331-5708.

EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS FOR SALE OR WANTED

Wanted: Persons or companies interested in manufacturing tree props for a Montana corporation. Contact Dick Robinson, Fox Lumber Company, phone (406) 363-5140.

Get the most out of your timber! Produce 25% more lumber with the Timber Harvester Portable Band Sawmill. Fully remote controlled and hydraulically operated. One or two person operation. For details: 1 (800) 343-2969, (315) 539-5095, or Timber Harvester, 1310 Waterloo-Geneva Road, Waterloo, NY 13165.

Northern white cedar shakes/shingles for sale. 18" long, 1/2"-5/8" thick. **bundles make on square with an 8" exposure. For more information phone or write Donald Hauner, Box 438, Littleton, MN 56653, phone (218) 278-4115.

Timbers wanted from reliable sawmills. Misc. sizes and species from 6x6 to 14x14. Lengths from 3' to 40' depending on order requested. Grades vary from mixed hardwood blocking quality to "select car stock" white oak, to DS72 So. Yellow Pine. We will arrange trucking. Contact Tom Albert @ Albert Forest Products, P.O. Box 39, Ingomar, PA 15127, phone (412) 366-1440 or fax (412) 366-1551.

Wanted to buy: Truckload quantities of 2" diameter-8' and 10' dowelled lodgepole tree stakes; pointed and capped. Interested in buying finished product or possibly raw material if situation warrents. Contact Joel Fox Lumber, P.O. Drawer 1429, Hamilton, MT 59840, phone (406) 363-5140.

DRY KILN SCHEDULES FOR COMMERCIAL WOODS

A recent report, prepared by the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), provides hundreds of dry kiln schedules for temperate and tropical woods. Primarily for use by dry kiln operators and others interested in dry-kilning wood, the report consolidates and updates drying schedules from many sources, making them easy to find and convenient to use.

The report includes dry kiln schedules for several thicknesses of more than 500 temperate and tropical woods and, for many species, schedules for specialty products, such as wooden squares, handle stock, and gun stock blanks.

Experienced kiln operators may use the report as a general guideline, altering the schedules according to individual kiln conditions and wood property variations. Most dry kiln schedules in the report were intended for use with steamheated kilns with temperature and humidity closely controlled.

For a copy of General Technical Report FPL-GT4-57, Dry Kiln Schedules for Commercial Woods-Temperate and Tropical, write or call: Forest Products Laboratory, One Gifford Pinchot Dr., Madison, Wisconsin 53705-2398, phone (608) 264-5600.

MEETINGS

45th Annual Northwest Wood Products Clinic--May 7-9, 1990. Convention Center, Spokane, Washington. Sessions include "Improved Maintenance," "Log and Lumber Scanning," "Quality Control & Kiln Drying," "Timber Supply," "Land Management," "Industry Operations and Plywood Plant Improvements." For additional information contact: ShoWorks, Inc. (509) 838-8755.

Western Dry Kiln Association--May 9-11, 1990 Harrah's, Reno, Nevada. Topics: "Statistical Process Control," "Weight as a Basis for Kiln Control," "Improving Your Drying Quality," "Acoustic Emissions Generated During Drying," "Precision and Accuracy of an In-Kiln Moisture Meter." For additional information contact: Charles Kozlik, 269 NE Waco Court, Hillsboro, OR 97124, phone (503) 737-4210.

Bonded Wood & Fiber Composite Materials Conference--October 14-17, 1990 University of Idaho, University Inn, Moscow, Idaho. This conference is intended to present the latest industrial and marketing developments for mineral-bonded wood particle and fiber products. For more information contact: Conferences and Enrichment Program, phone (208) 885-6198.

Wood Protection With Diffusible Preservatives--November 28-30, 1990 Double Tree Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee. Numerous studies of the economics, effectiveness, and environmental safety of water diffusible preservatives have lead to some interesting research results and promising applications. This conference is designed to provide a detailed picture of the state-of-the-art of diffusible preservative research. The conference will highlight research results in numerous applications ranging from log homes to composite panels. For more information contact Forest Product Research Society, 2801 Marshall Court, Madison, WI 53705, phone (608) 231-1361.

A PROGRAM TO HELP DECIDE WHEN TO INSTALL A WOOD-FUELED DRY KILN

A report published by the Mississippi Forest Products Utilization Laboratory describes how to use a new computer program KILN. KILN is for owners and managers to use for analyzing the pros and cons of adding a wood-fueled dry kiln to their facility. Copies of the manual and diskettes can be obtained from Dr. Philip H. Steel, Mississippi Forest Products Utilization Laboratory, Mississippi State, MS, 39762, phone (601) 325-3150.

NEW WOOD PRESERVATIVE REGISTERED

The EPA has issued a registration to Binab USA, Inc. for Binab T pellets, biorational fungicide, and Binab T wettable powder, biortical fungicide, to control internal decay of wood and wood products. The active pesticide ingredients are trichoderma harzianum and trichoderma polysporum. EPA in its notice, said that Binab T pellets can be used to control decay in utility poles, playground structures and fence posts, and Binab T wettable powder can be used to control decay on pruning wounds of trees. (Source--AWPI's Environmental Report, Volume 9, Number 1, January '90)

If you wish to advertise a forest product or a piece of wood-processing machinery in this bulletin, complete form below. No charge is made for this service. If you wish to rerun item, a written request must be submitted before the next issue.

NAME OF PERSON OR FIRM: _____

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ZIP CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

Type or print your advertisement in the space below, detach and return to:

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Forestry Division
Forest Products Bulletin
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Missoula, Montana 59801

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